SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

25 JULY 2001

$4.99

Mature Themes

[illegible]

Katmandu

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MIKE CURTIS
CHIPMUNK MASSUSE

The INNER CIRCLE

IF YOU LOOK TO THE LEFT ON THIS PAGE, YOU MAY NOTICE A *LOT* OF NAMES.

Under PRODUCTION STAFF are the names ED GARCIA, CHARLES GRAY, DEBRA COLVIN and MIKE OXLEY.

That doesn't really tell much about them or what they do.

Years ago, in the GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS, there were things called COMIC SHOPS. These shops didn't sell comics, they produced them for publishers. Notable shops were ran by Eisner, Biro, and Simon and Kirby.

It started a few years ago at Confurence. Ed Garcia came over to my table and introduced himself, showing me some art. He began getting scripts, and brought his friends Charles and Mike into the fold. Ed built a comics shop.

When SFA began publishing more than three comics, we knew we needed help. And luckily, Ed, Charles and Mike were there.

They do inks, lettering, toning, and make sure the printer gets the comic. That's a lot more work than can be summed up in that one sentence. And it doesn't include the art and scripts they do for us and for Radio Comix.

Of course, it helps that they added another person to the crew, in Debra Colvin.

They do magnificent work, and unfortunately, they get the books close to the deadline, so their work on the comics is often the hardest performed.

But they're stalwart, and ready to expand if some plans of ours come to fruition (possibly involving color). With 14 titles under the SFA banner and possibly more to come, anything can happen.

Leave it to Ed, Charles, Mike and Debra to be right on deadline while continuing a 60 year old profession.

Mike and Carole

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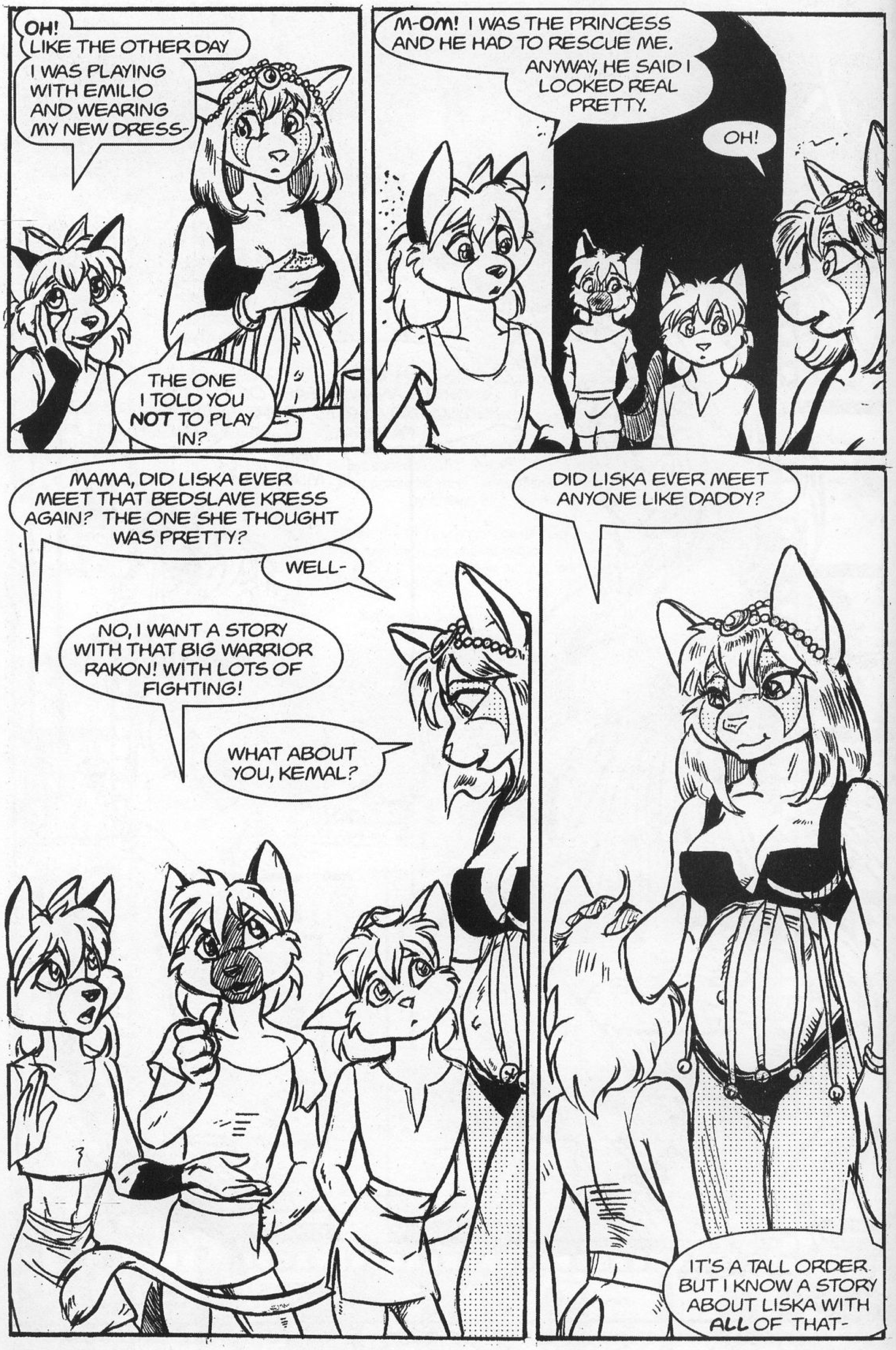
Katmandu
THE HUNT
PROLOGUE
WHY ARE YOU DRESSING UP, MAMA?
LOANZAH-LOVE, IT'S THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MY MARRIAGE TO YOUR FATHER...
DADDY LIKES THAT, HUH?
VERY MUCH.

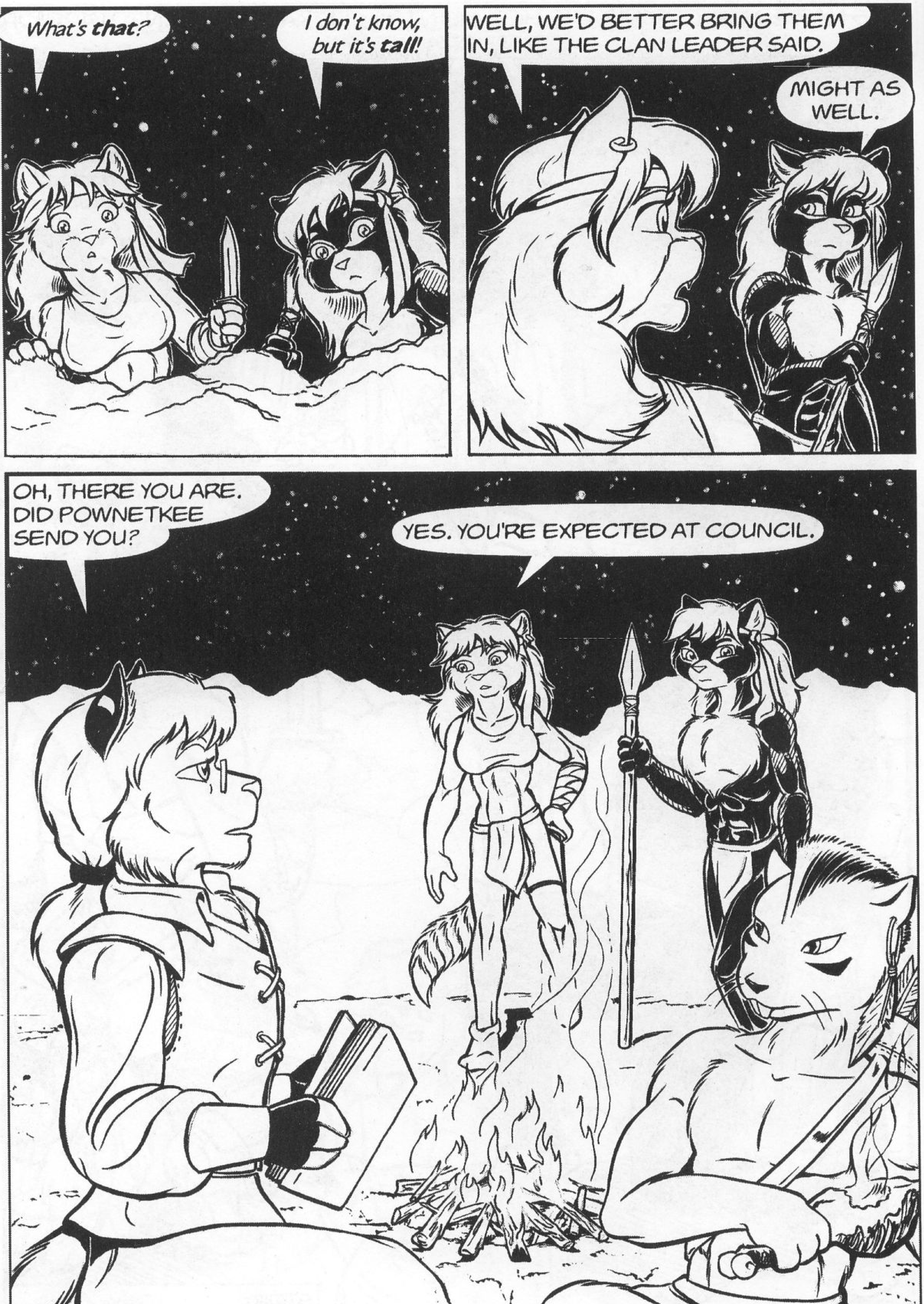
ART: TERRIE SMITH INKS: ED GARCIA TONES: DEBRA COLVIN LETTERS: CHARLES GRAY


OH! LIKE THE OTHER DAY
I WAS PLAYING WITH EMILIO AND WEARING MY NEW DRESS-
THE ONE I TOLD YOU **NOT** TO PLAY IN?
M-OM! I WAS THE PRINCESS AND HE HAD TO RESCUE ME.
ANYWAY, HE SAID I LOOKED REAL PRETTY.
OH!
MAMA, DID LISKA EVER MEET THAT BEDSLAVE KRESS AGAIN? THE ONE SHE THOUGHT WAS PRETTY?
WELL-
NO, I WANT A STORY WITH THAT BIG WARRIOR RAKON! WITH LOTS OF FIGHTING!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEMAL?
DID LISKA EVER MEET ANYONE LIKE DADDY?
IT'S A TALL ORDER. BUT I KNOW A STORY ABOUT LISKA WITH **ALL** OF THAT-

THIS HAPPENED DURING THE HOT MONTHS. LISKA HAD BEEN A WARRIOR FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
There they are.
They must be the ones whose sign we tracked. Strange-looking creatures.

The Hunt PART ONE

STORY: Carole Curtis
PENCILS: Lisa Jennings
INKS: Kenneth Sample
LETTERS: Lisa Jennings


What's **that**?
I don't know, but it's **tall**!
WELL, WE'D BETTER BRING THEM IN, LIKE THE CLAN LEADER SAID.
MIGHT AS WELL.
OH, THERE YOU ARE. DID POWNETKEE SEND YOU?
YES. YOU'RE EXPECTED AT COUNCIL.

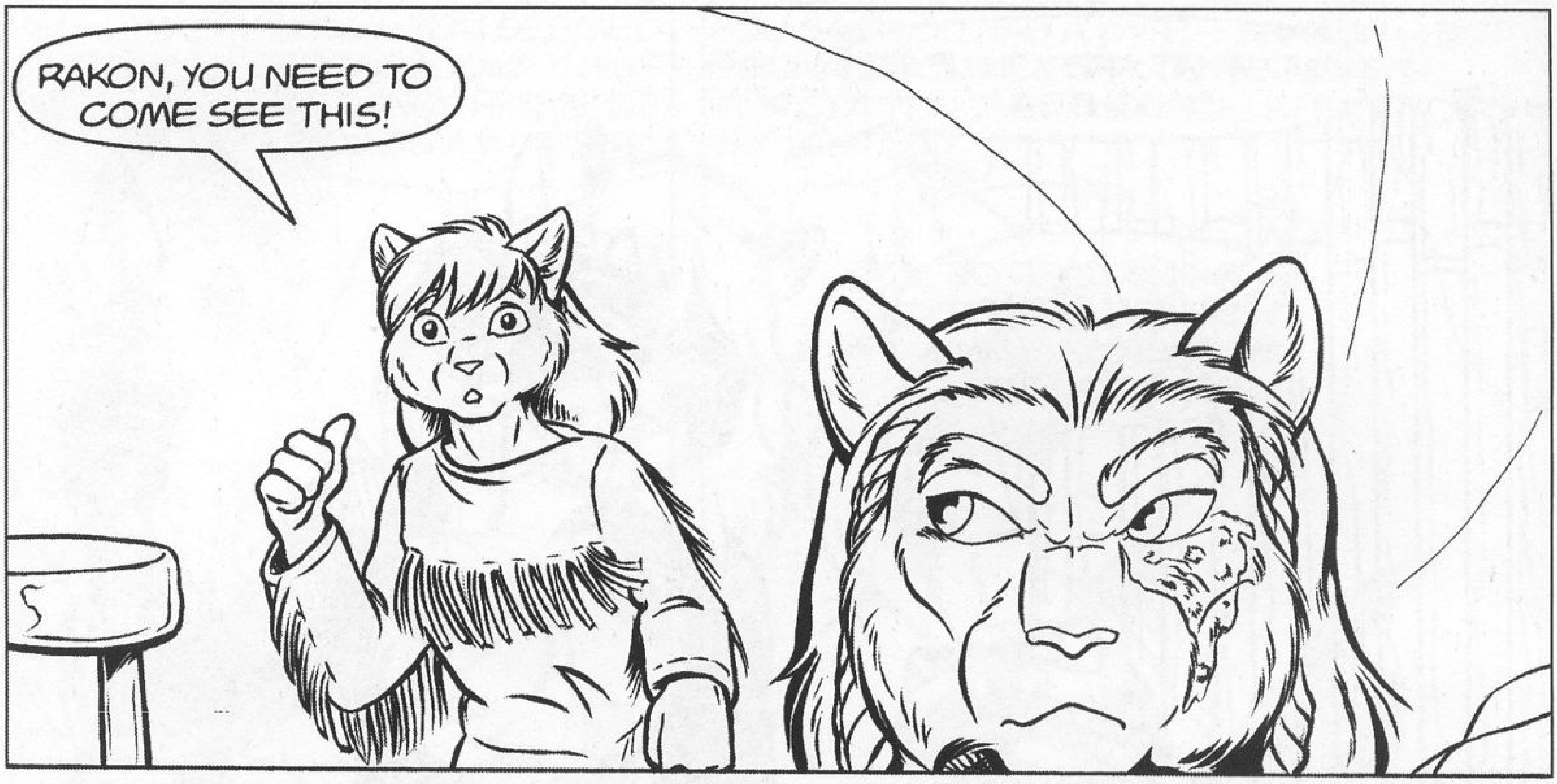
WELL, I CAN'T GET ANY READING DONE BY THIS CAMPFIRE. LET'S GO NOW.
WHO ARE YOUR FRIENDS?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW. CHIEF BURNING TREE SENT THEM AS GUIDES. I CALL THEM MIC AND MAC.
<WARM-SUN-WARRIORS. I AM LISKA MITSEL-EMAN AND THIS IS RIAL HADA-RO-SEG. WE ARE OF THE HIGHLAND TRIBE.>
<FINALLY! SOMEONE WHO KNOWS TRADE-SPEECH. I AM TALL MOON AND THIS IS MY BROTHER LAUGHING BIRD.>
<WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS OUTLANDER?>
<STRANGE, ISN'T HE? OUR CHIEF WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH "OLD SMOKY" AND HIS WEAPON.>
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, TALL MAN? THEY CALL YOU "OLD SMOKY".

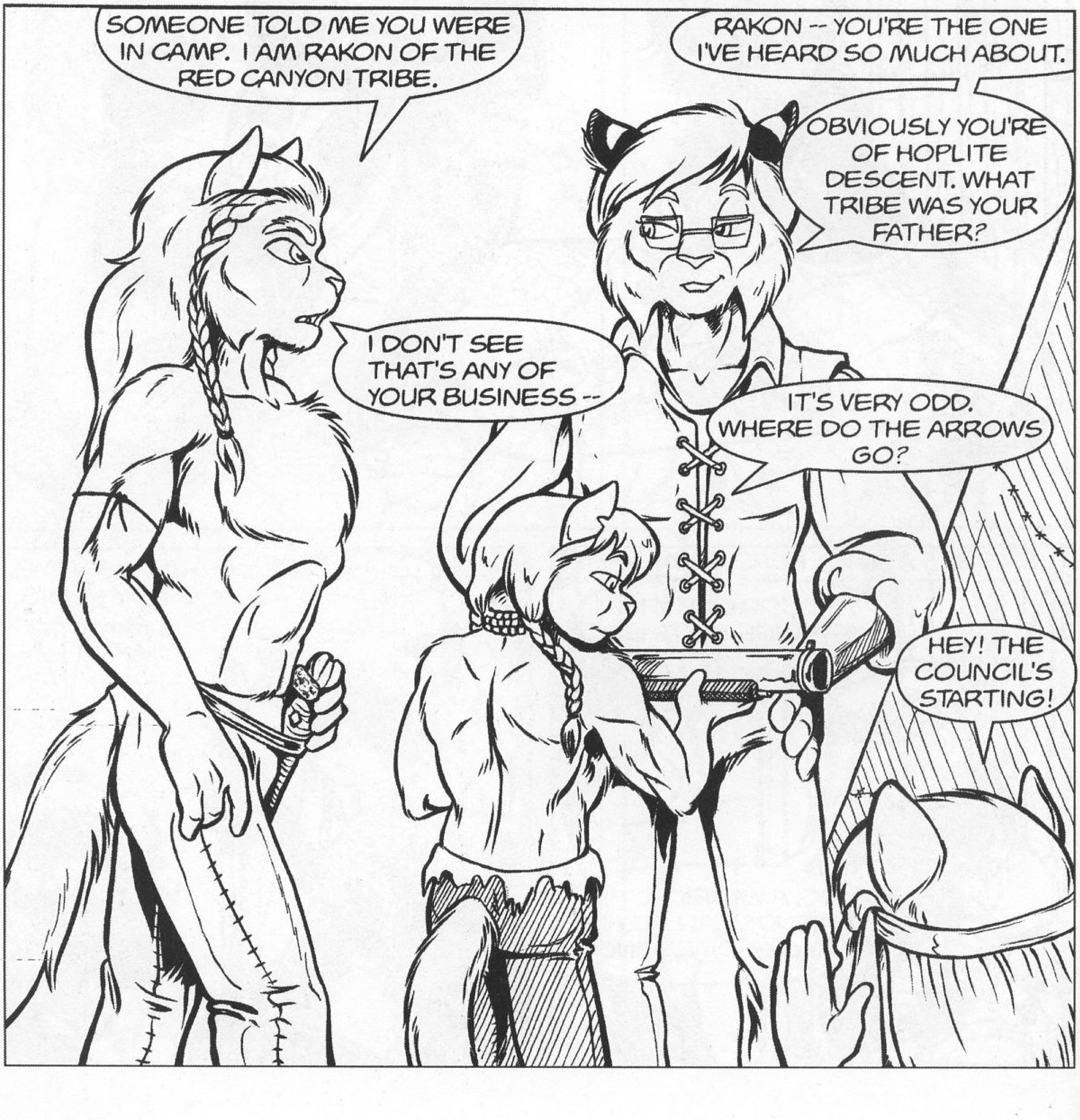
PARDON ME. MY NAME IS INDIGO WEECHAI. I'M AN INVENTOR AND EXPLORER. I WAS VISITING THE MIC MACS WHEN THEIR CHIEF RECEIVED WORD OF THE EMERGENCY.
I'M LISKA MITSEL-EMAN OF THE HIGHLAND TRIBE. YOUR GUIDES ARE TALL MOON AND LAUGHING BIRD. WHY DO THEY CALL YOU "OLD SMOKY"?
BECAUSE OF THIS. YOU'LL SEE IT WORK LATER.
"YOU SEE, CHILDREN, THERE WAS A GREAT DANGER ABROAD IN THE LAND. DIFFERENT TRIBES WERE CONVENING IN THE HIGHLANDS TO FACE IT."

LISKA! THE VILLE IS SO CROWDED I DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND YOU!
WHAT IS IT, PYNDAN?
POWNETKEE'S BROTHER CHIEF IS HERE AND HE'S NOT ALONE.
OF COURSE, HE BROUGHT WARRIORS.
NOT JUST WARRIORS.
HELLO, LISKA.
KRESS?
I ASKED OUR CHIEF IF I COULD ACCOMPANY HIM TO YOUR VILLE --
I AM NO LONGER A SLAVE. I SERVED THE YEARS AGREED WHEN MY FAMILY WAS PAID, SO NOW I'M A FREE WOMAN . . . LOOKING FOR A WARRIOR TO CARE FOR.

WHY COME HERE?
WELL -- YOU SEEMED SO NICE. OUR CHIEF THINKS HIGHLY OF YOU AS A WARRIOR.
YOU SAID YOU HAD A WIFE -- SHAYGIN -- BUT PERHAPS YOU NEED TWO. I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN THE NIGHT YOU SPENT IN MY TENT.
I DON'T KNOW IF SHAYGIN WOULD WANT A SECOND WIFE AROUND.
I PROMISE NOT TO UPSET HER, LISKA.
THANK YOU, KRESS-KA.
BUT THINK ON IT, WILL YOU?

AND WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, DAUGHTER?
TAKING CARE OF PELLEW, FATHER. MOTHER SHAYGIN'S BUSY COOKING.
THERE WAS A GIANT HERE, PAPA!
THE ODD ONE WITH STRANGE CLOTHES?
NO, A WARRIOR. HIS FRIENDS CALLED HIM RACK-SOMETHING.
RAKON.
THAT'S HIS NAME. HE'S **AWFUL** BIG.


RAKON, YOU NEED TO COME SEE THIS!

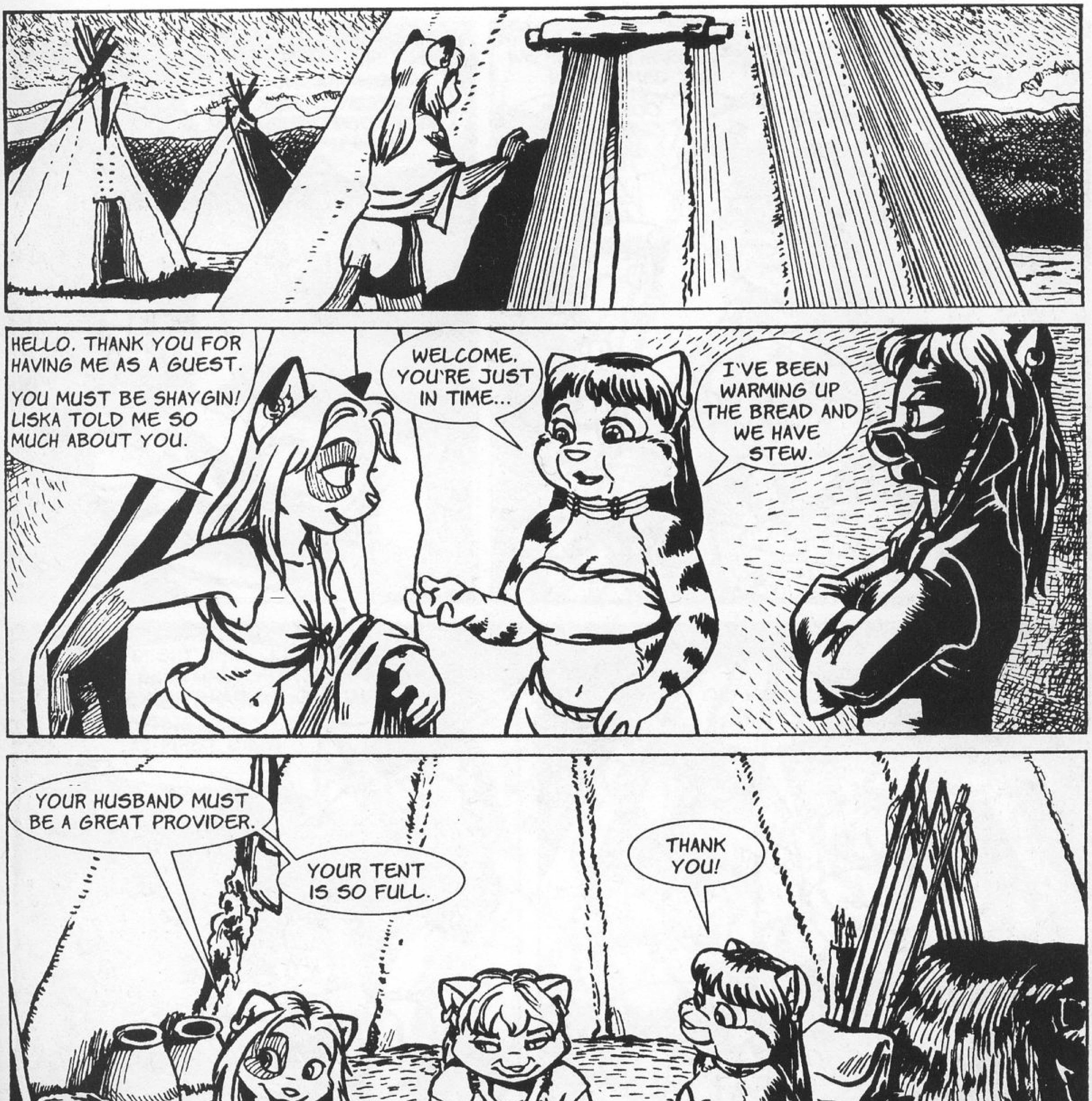

SOMEONE TOLD ME YOU WERE IN CAMP. I AM RAKON OF THE RED CANYON TRIBE.
RAKON -- YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.
OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE OF HOPLITE DESCENT. WHAT TRIBE WAS YOUR FATHER?
I DON'T SEE THAT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS --
IT'S VERY ODD. WHERE DO THE ARROWS GO?
HEY! THE COUNCIL'S STARTING!

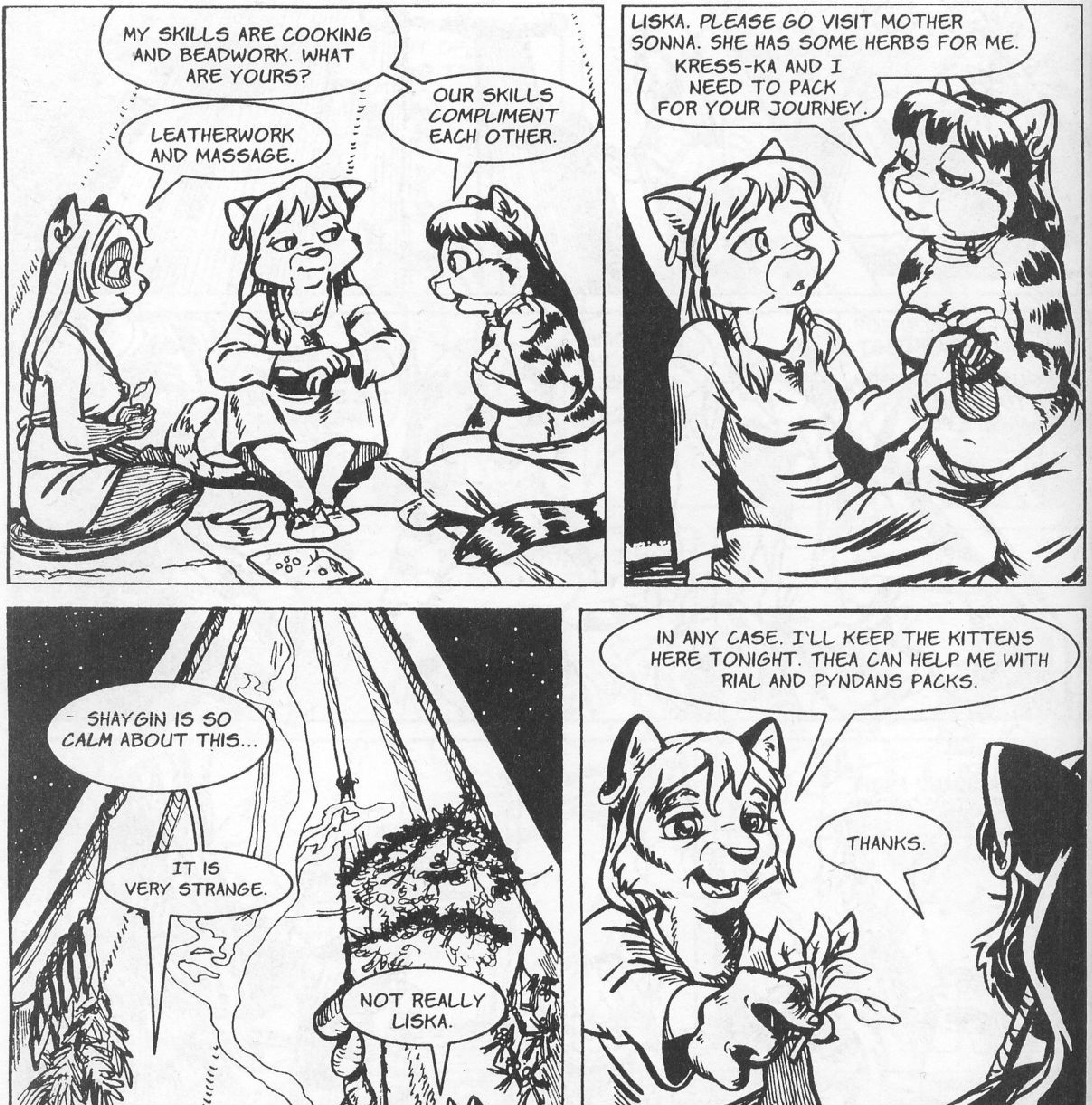
THERE HAS BEEN NO TRIBAL GATHERING LIKE THIS IN OVER TWENTY TURNS OF THE SEASONS, BUT THERE IS A MENACE ABROAD IN THE LAND. INDIGO WEECHAI IS FROM A LAND FAR TOWARD THE SETTING SUN. HE IS NOT OF OUR PEOPLE, BUT HE HAS AGREED TO HELP US WITH HIS WISDOM.
THANK YOU, CHIEF POWNETKEE. TRADERS COMING TO MY CITY BROUGHT REPORTS OF RAIDS ON VARIOUS PLAINS TRIBES. AS A SCIENTIST, I CAME TO INVESTIGATE. I TALKED TO SURVIVORS AND --
-- THEY DESCRIBED A CREATURE LONG THOUGHT EXTINCT. YOUR LEGENDS CALL IT A BLOODBEAST, OUR RECORDS NAME IT GOMARRIN.

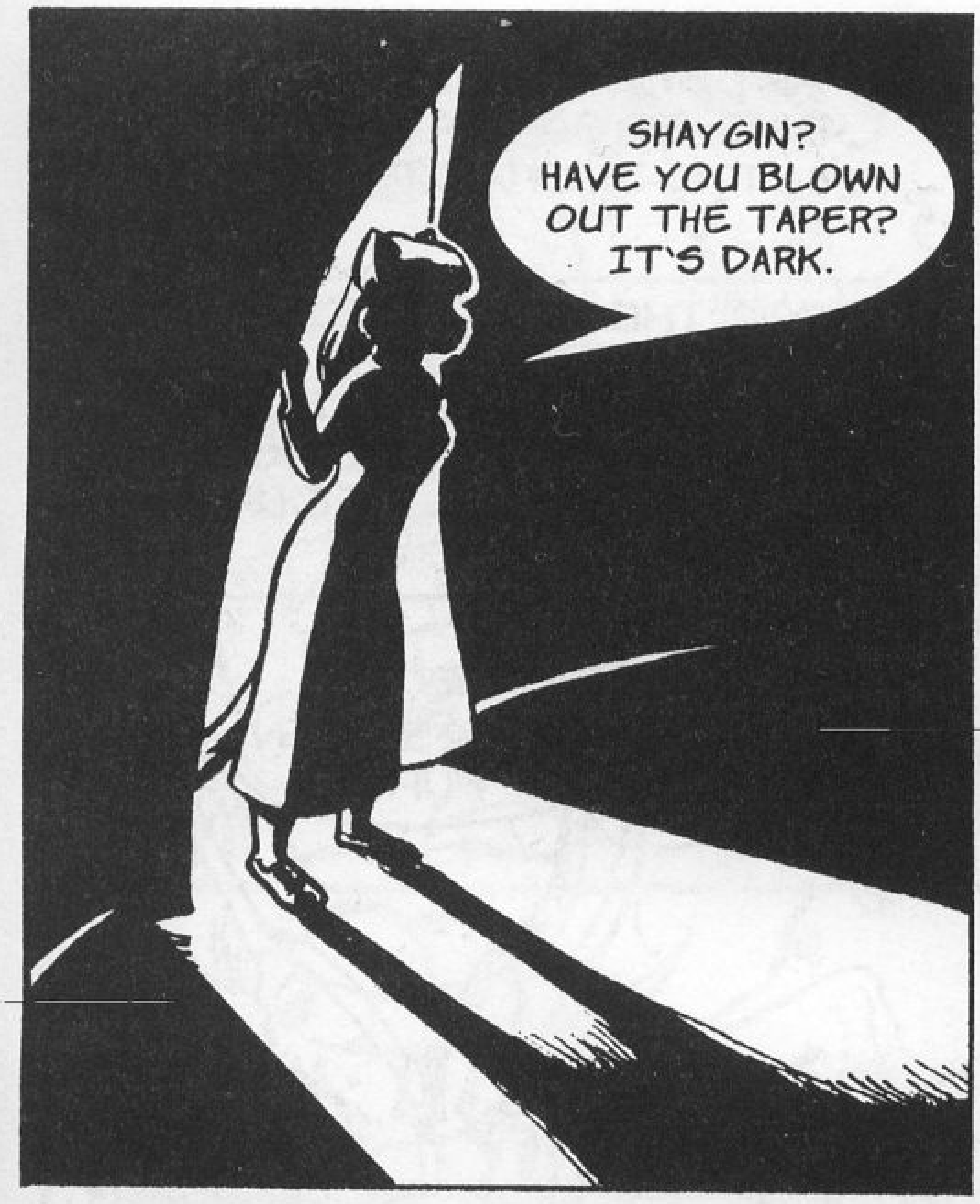
CAN IT REALLY BE THAT TALL?
WE KNOW ITS HEIGHT FROM BONES WE'VE FOUND. THE SURVIVORS VERIFY IT.
HOW CAN A WARRIOR FACE SUCH A BEAST?
ONE CANNOT ALONE, FLINT.
FOR THIS PURPOSE, BECAUSE SUCH A MENACE THREATENS **ALL** OUR TRIBES, THIS ARMY OF WARRIORS HAS ASSEMBLED. WITH FIRST LIGHT, YOU ALL DEPART ON THIS HUNT. TELL YOUR WOMEN TO PREPARE YOUR PACKS TONIGHT.

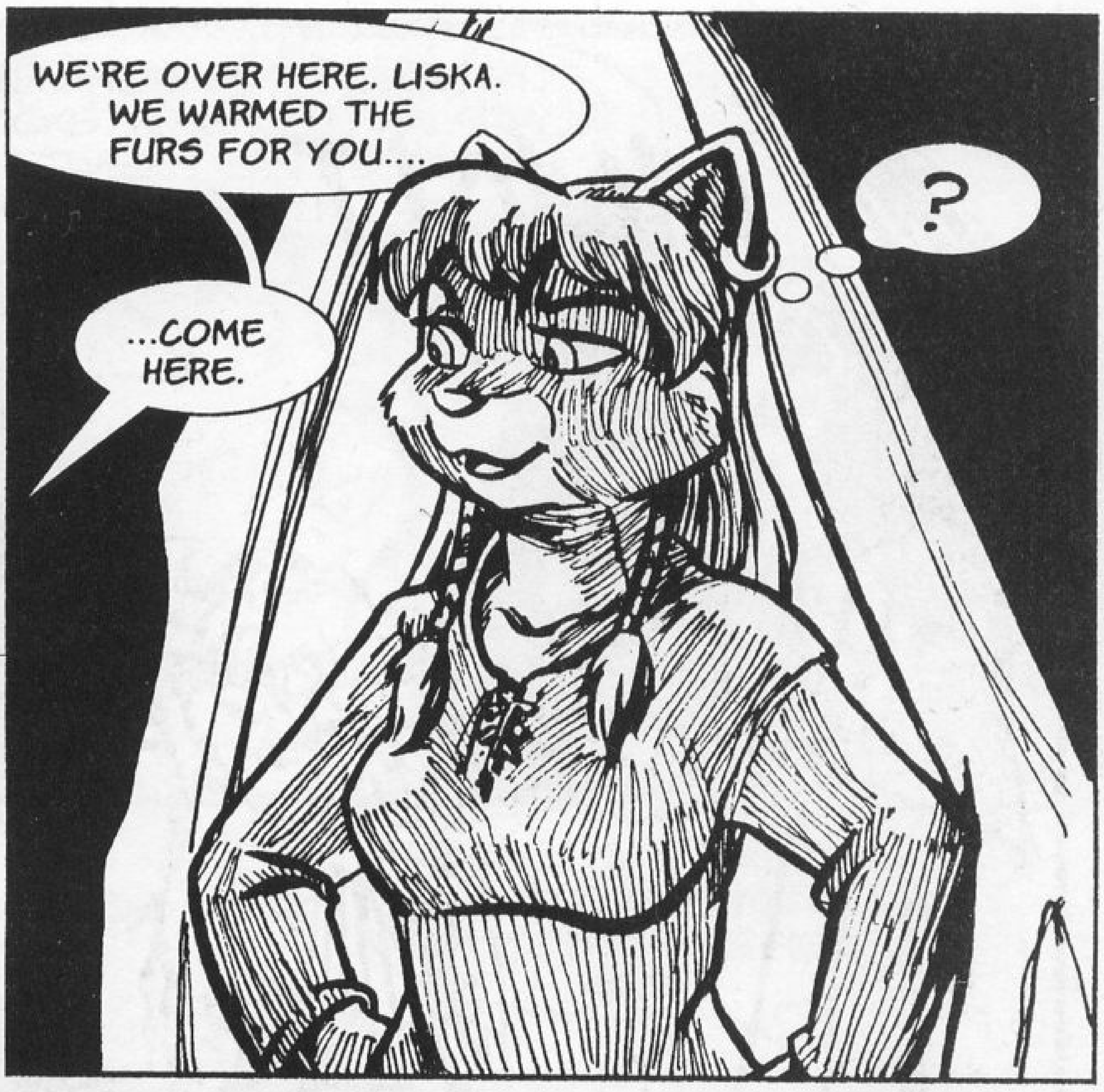
Katmandu
"The Discussion"
Story: Carole Curtis
Art: Shelley Pleger
HUSBAND! ELISHAA AND I HAVE BEEN BAKING TODAY. THE CHILDREN ARE OFF PLAYING...
... IF YOU WANT PRIVACY.
SHAYGIN. ALL THE WARRIORS HAVE TO LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT.
I HAVE TO PREPARE.
...AND WE HAVE A GUEST TONIGHT.
OH? ONE OF THE WARRIORS?
NO. AN OLD FRIEND.
OH. THAT'LL BE NICE.

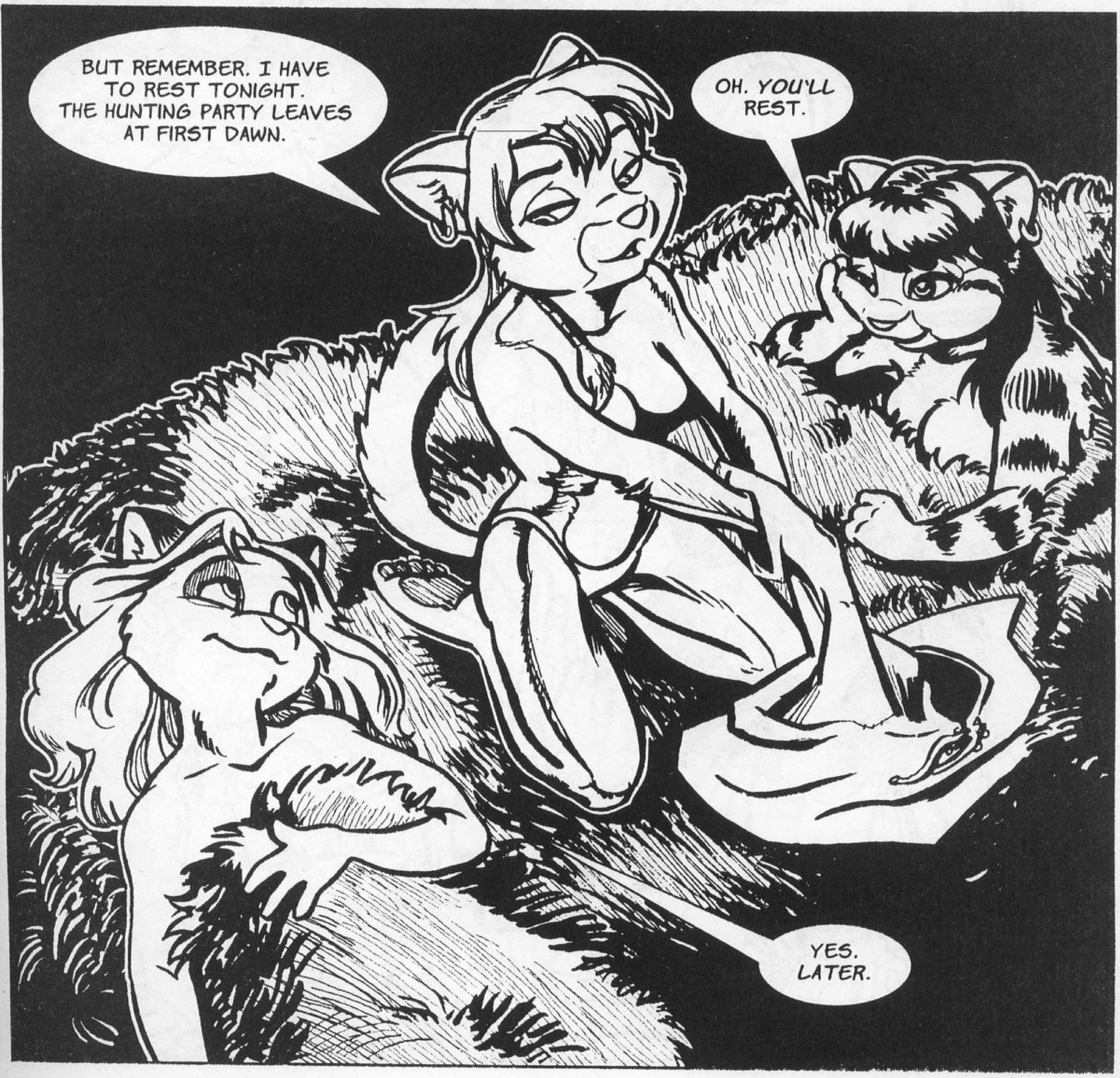
SHAYGIN. YOU WORK VERY HARD.
THREE KITTENS ARE A LOT OF WORK. AND TAKING CARE OF MY WARRIOR HUSBAND.
OF COURSE I DO.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING SOME HELP?
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF BUYING A *SLAVE* ARE YOU?
NO. YOU KNOW I'M AGAINST THAT.
WHAT THEN?
A SECOND WIFE.
WHO IS SHE?
HER NAME IS KRESS. WHEN I TOOK MY VISIONQUEST SHE WAS A BEDSLAVE AT OUR NEIGHBOR TRIBE.
SHE'S COME HERE. LOOKING FOR A HOME NOW HER SERVITUDE IS DONE.
AND SHE'S OUR GUEST TONIGHT?
YES.


HELLO. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME AS A GUEST.
YOU MUST BE SHAYGIN! LISKA TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
WELCOME. YOU'RE JUST IN TIME...
I'VE BEEN WARMING UP THE BREAD AND WE HAVE STEW.
YOUR HUSBAND MUST BE A GREAT PROVIDER.
YOUR TENT IS SO FULL.
THANK YOU!
OH. THIS STEW IS DELICIOUS! LISKA TOLD ME YOU WERE A WONDERFUL COOK!


MY SKILLS ARE COOKING AND BEADWORK. WHAT ARE YOURS?
LEATHERWORK AND MASSAGE.
OUR SKILLS COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER.
LISKA. *PLEASE GO* VISIT MOTHER SONNA. SHE HAS SOME HERBS FOR ME.
KRESS-KA AND I NEED TO PACK FOR YOUR JOURNEY.
SHAYGIN IS SO CALM ABOUT THIS...
IT IS VERY STRANGE.
NOT REALLY LISKA.
REMEMBER. SHE AND ELISHAA USED TO BE YOUR SLAVES.
IN ANY CASE. I'LL KEEP THE KITTENS HERE TONIGHT. THEA CAN HELP ME WITH RIAL AND PYNDANS PACKS.
THANKS.

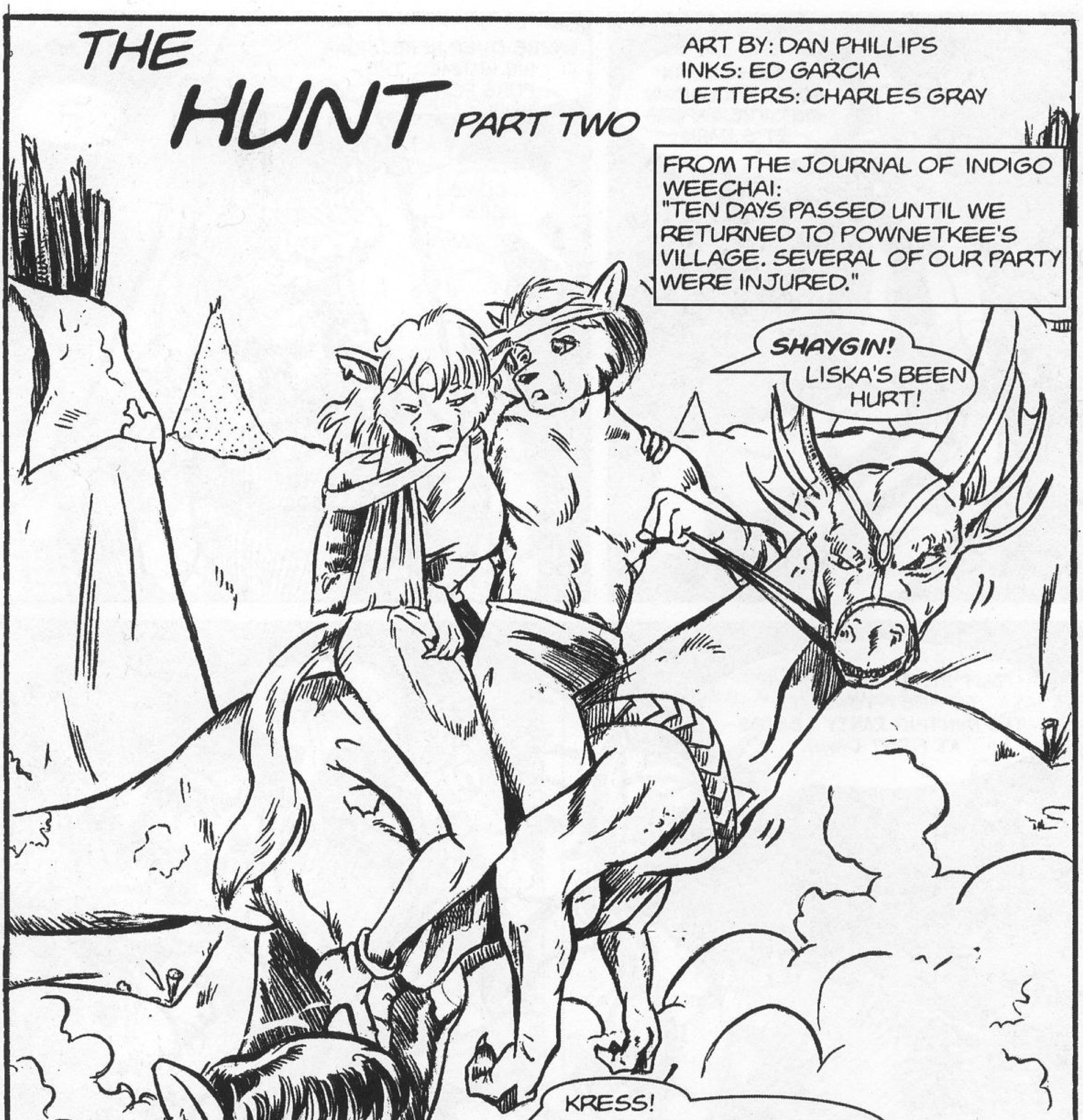

SHAYGIN? HAVE YOU BLOWN OUT THE TAPER? IT'S DARK.


WE'RE OVER HERE. LISKA. WE WARMED THE FURS FOR YOU....
?
...COME HERE.

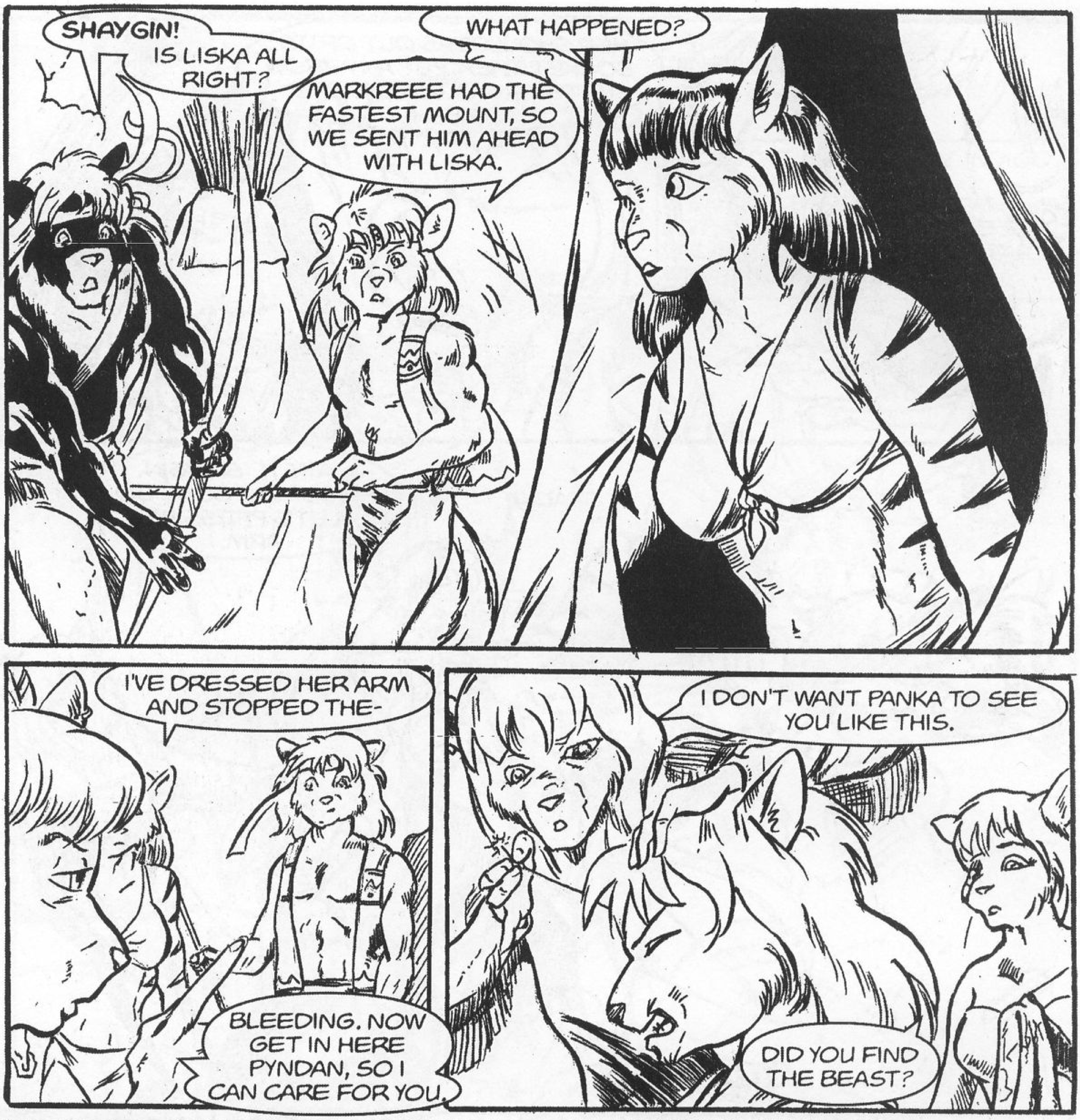

BUT REMEMBER. I HAVE TO REST TONIGHT. THE HUNTING PARTY LEAVES AT FIRST DAWN.
OH. *YOU'LL* REST.
YES. LATER.

THE HUNT PART TWO

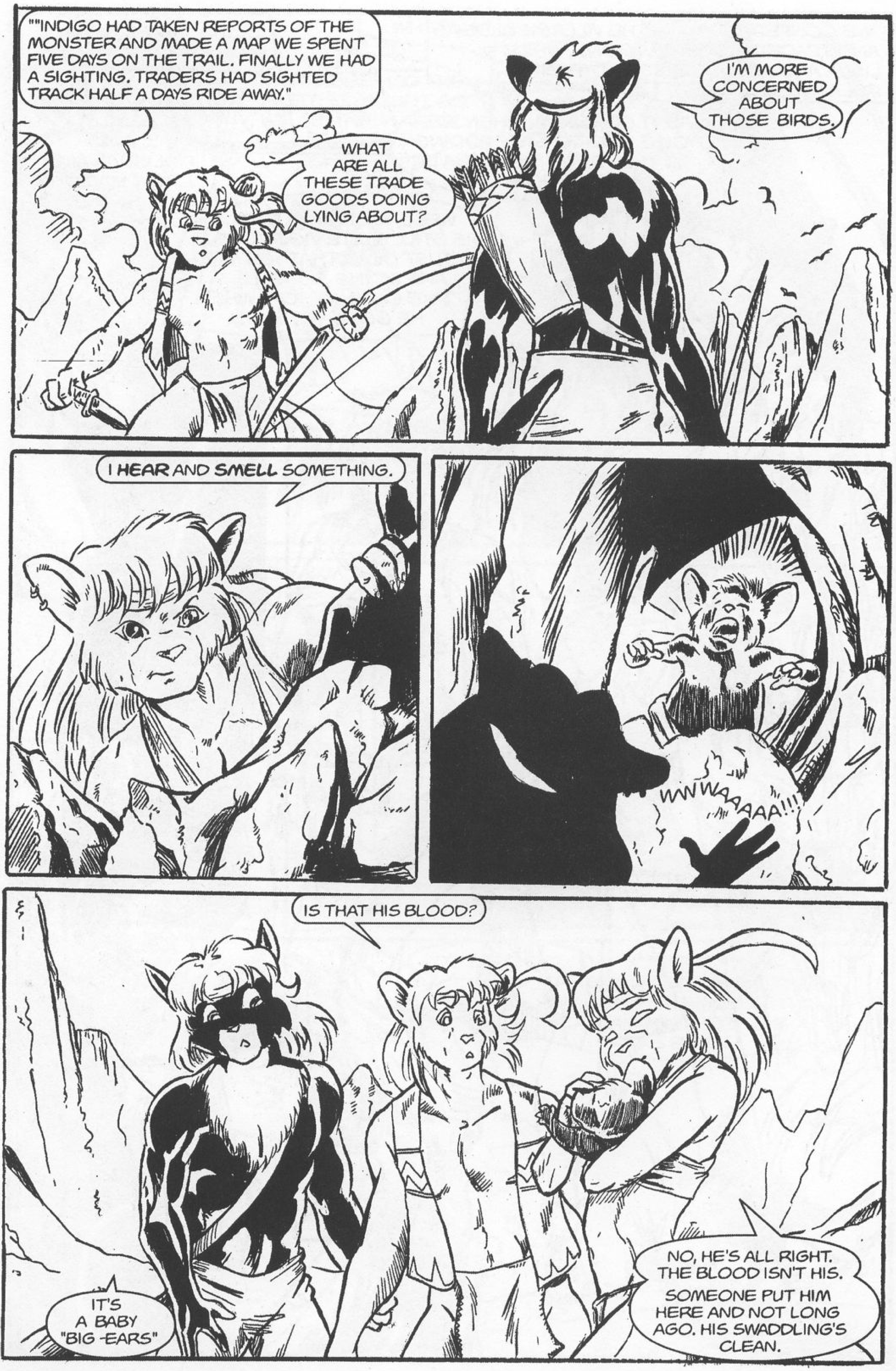
ART BY: DAN PHILLIPS
INKS: ED GARCIA
LETTERS: CHARLES GRAY


FROM THE JOURNAL OF INDIGO WEECHAI: "TEN DAYS PASSED UNTIL WE RETURNED TO POWNETKEE'S VILLAGE. SEVERAL OF OUR PARTY WERE INJURED."
SHAYGIN! LISKA'S BEEN HURT!
KRESS! SEND THEA AFTER MOTHER SONNA!

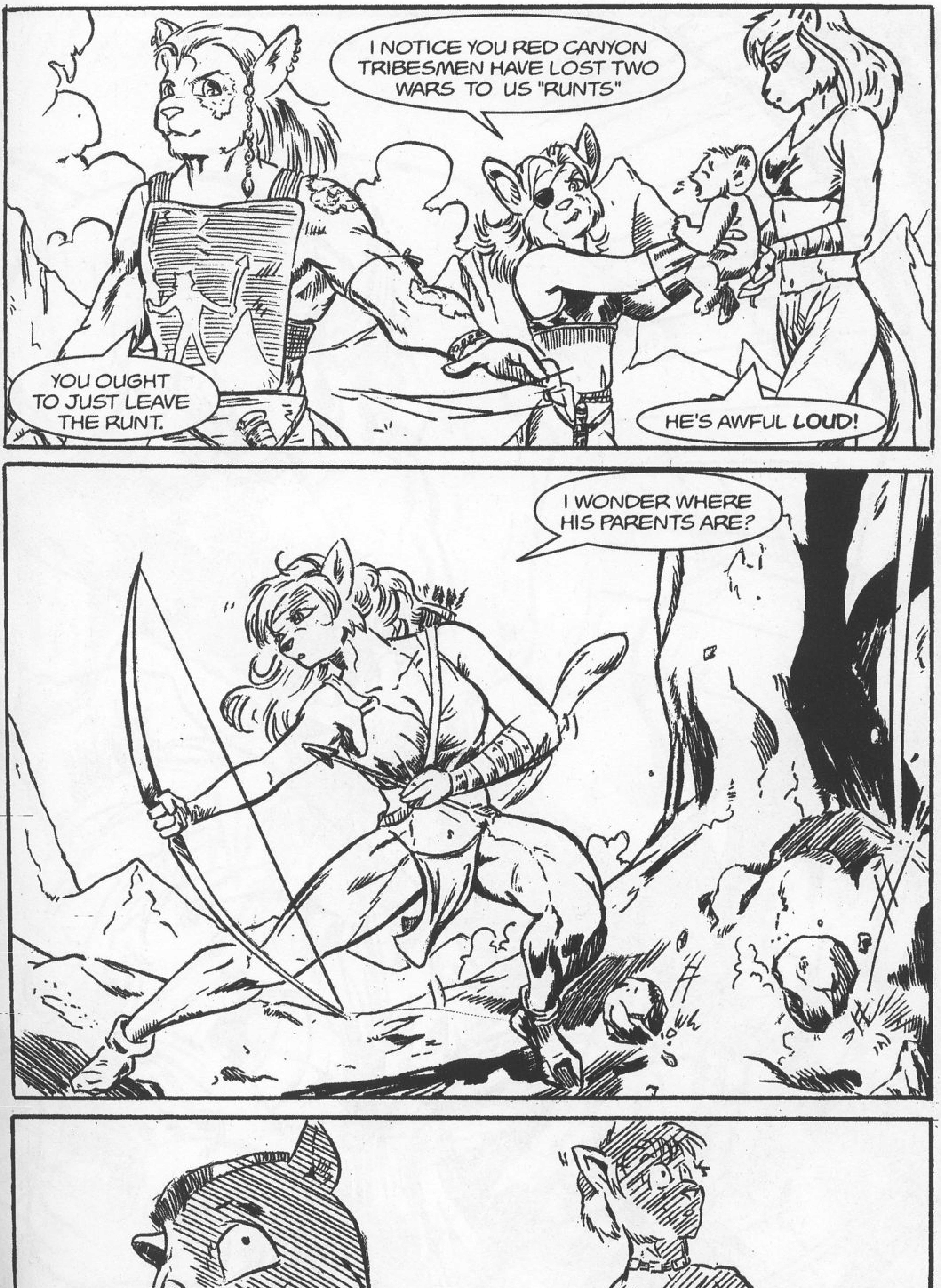
HER SHOULDER'S OUT OF ITS SOCKET. THEA, PUT AN ARROW BETWEEN YOUR MOTHERS TEETH.
THAT'S IT, SHAYGIN. I HEARD THE BONE GO IN. LET'S PRESS HER ARM.
CRACK!
KRESS, ARE THOSE HERBS BREWED?
YES, MOTHER SONNA.
THIS WILL LET HER REST WITHOUT PAIN UNTIL DARK. THEN WE'LL CHECK HER AGAIN.


SHAYGIN!
IS LISKA ALL RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
MARKREEE HAD THE FASTEST MOUNT, SO WE SENT HIM AHEAD WITH LISKA.
I'VE DRESSED HER ARM AND STOPPED THE-
BLEEDING. NOW GET IN HERE PYNDAN, SO I CAN CARE FOR YOU.
I DON'T WANT PANKA TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.
DID YOU FIND THE BEAST?
YES, WE DID.
AFTER WE LEFT HERE, THE WAR PARTY STOPPED AT THE FLATLANDS, WHERE LISKA WAS BORN.

"WE CONFERRED WITH THE VILLAGE ELDERS AND TRADED FOR PROVISIONS, WHILE LISKA AND MARKREE VISITED THEIR RELATIVES."
AUNT DERONDA, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP ADDING TO THE FAMILY? MY THEA IS FIVE NOW.
WELL, YOUR UNCLE KAL IS STILL QUITE VIGOROUS. I'M JUST GLAD THAT YOU TWO ARE DOING SO WELL. TAKE CARE OF TORI WHEN HE GOES WITH YOU.
AND ELISHAA AND I JUST HAD OUR SON.


""INDIGO HAD TAKEN REPORTS OF THE MONSTER AND MADE A MAP WE SPENT FIVE DAYS ON THE TRAIL. FINALLY WE HAD A SIGHTING. TRADERS HAD SIGHTED TRACK HALF A DAYS RIDE AWAY."
WHAT ARE ALL THESE TRADE GOODS DOING LYING ABOUT?
I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE BIRDS.
I **HEAR** AND **SMELL** SOMETHING.
WWWAAAAAA!!!
IS THAT HIS BLOOD?
IT'S A BABY "BIG-EARS"
NO, HE'S ALL RIGHT. THE BLOOD ISN'T HIS.
SOMEONE PUT HIM HERE AND NOT LONG AGO. HIS SWADDLING'S CLEAN.

TO


I NOTICE YOU RED CANYON TRIBESMEN HAVE LOST TWO WARS TO US "RUNTS"
YOU OUGHT TO JUST LEAVE THE RUNT.
HE'S AWFUL **LOUD**!
I WONDER WHERE HIS PARENTS ARE?

"I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR RAKON. HE'S NOT A COWARD. HE WAS THE FIRST ONE TO REACH THE MONSTER."
"HE BROKE THE STRAP ON HIS WARCLUB AND RAN STREIGHT AT IT."
"I WAS AS FAR AWAY AS MY TENT TO THIS ONE AND I HEARD A CRACK LIKE THUNDER.
I DIDN'T KNOW IF THE CLUB OR THE MONSTER'S KNEE HAD SHATTERED."

"IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT EVERYONE ELSE WAS FIRING ARROWS AND THROWING SPEARS. RAKON HAD THOUGHT TO MAKE SURE THE MONSTERS WOULD BE CRIPPLED AND UNABLE TO TO ESCAPE."
"THE WARRIORS ATTACKING FROM BEHIND FOUND THE BEASTS TAIL WAS AS DEADLY AS HIS CLAWS."
" LISKA STOOD BRAVELY DIRECTLY UNDER THE MONSTER FIRING ARROW AFTER ARROW."
"HE GRABBED HER BY THE RIGHT ARM AND WAS GOING TO -WELL--- SHE HAD HER KNIFE-OUT."

"NO ONE WAS WATCHING INDIGO. HE HAD SHOULDERED HIS STRANGE WEAPON AND POINTED IT AT THE CREATURE, BUT WHAT IT COULD DO, WE KNEW NOT."
"SUDDENLY, THE SKY AROUND INDIGO FILLED WITH THUNDER AND LIGHTNING. FIRE AND SMOKE ERUPTED!"
"THE HEAD OF THE BEAST FLEW BACKWARD AND BLOOD SHOT OUT OF HIS EYE."

"THE BEAST THREW LISKA AS HE FELL DEAD TO THE GROUND. PYNDAN GOT BETWEEN HER AND THE ROCKS."
"HER FUR WAS SCRAPED FROM HER ARM AND IT WAS BLEEDING. WE DID WHAT WE COULD.
MARKREE DUMPED HIS PACK AND WEAPONS, THEN HEADED HERE FAST."
WE LOST COLIN, OUR CLAN LEADER. MANY MORE INJURED. NOW I WANT SOME COOL WATER AND REST. I FACED DEATH, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I SAW LISKA FACE DEATH.

Katmandu
CIRCLES CIRCLES
HEY! THAT'S A NEW TUNIC, ISN'T IT?
YES. KRESS WORKED ON IT WHILE I WAS GONE. SHE'S QUITE THE SEAMSTRESS.
SO I HEAR FROM SHAYGIN.
SHAYGIN'S TAKING THE IDEA OF A SECOND WIFE VERY WELL, ELISHAA.
REMEMBER, SHE AND I WERE TRADED TOGETHER AS BEDSLAVES. WE'RE USED TO SHARING.
DANVEE'S READY TO EAT.
SO WHEN WILL YOU HAVE THE CEREMONY?
NEXT WEEK, AFTER ALL THE VISITORS ARE GONE.

THERE YOU ARE! THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE RESTING IN YOUR TENT. I BROUGHT A PIECE OF THE BEAST'S HEART. YOUR WOMEN CAN PREPARE IT FOR YOU.
WHY SO FRIENDLY, TALL TREE?
IT'S NOT FRIENDSHIP, FEMALE. IT'S THE RESPECT OF ONE WARRIOR TO ANOTHER. MANY WARRIORS THREW SPEARS AND SHOT ARROWS, BUT ONLY **YOU** AND **I** COUNTED COUP ON THE MONSTER.
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT. YOU **WERE** BOLD TO ATTACK THE BEAST WITH YOUR CLUB.
AND HERE'S YOUR KNIFE. I TOOK IT MYSELF FROM WHERE YOU STABBED HIM.
THANK YOU.

WHY'S **HE** SO FRIENDLY?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM AFTER YOU WERE TAKEN AWAY. HE WAS POSITIVELY **AFFABLE**.
REALLY, TORI?
ESPECIALLY AROUND THAT BIG INDIGO. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT.
YOU SEE, WE DO THIS TO CARRION TO SHOW WE HAVE NO FEAR OF DEATH.
OH.
SAY, RAKON, I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT BIG INDIGO WAS CRACKED -- OW!
QUIET!
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ANY TRIBE WHICH IS SMART ENOUGH TO CREATE SUCH A WEAPON MUST BY **MY** FATHER'S TRIBE.
SO I AM LEARNING THE WAYS OF MY ANCESTORS -- A **SUPERIOR** TRIBE.

INDIGO IS VERY INTERESTING.
YES HE IS. AND ONE OF THE FEMALES IN YOUR TRIBE FINDS HIM SO ALSO.
OH? WHICH ONE?
THE BLONDE WITH THE EYE MARKING.
REALLY?
SURE. SHE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND HIM SINCE WE GOT BACK YESTERDAY.
AND IS HE INTERESTED IN HER AS WELL?
LOOKS TO BE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I BELIEVE I'LL TAKE A WALK. PERHAPS I'LL FIND KRESS-KA.
THERE'S THE FEMALE WARRIOR NOW. THE ONE WITH MORE WIVES THAN SHE HAS FINGERS.
HELLO, FLINT.

WAS SURPRISED TO SEE **YOU** N THE HUNTING PARTY.
WHY? HE WAS A MENACE TO ME ALSO.
WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING BROCIA?
THAT SLAVE YOU TRICKED ME INTO TAKING? I SOLD HER LONG AGO.
TOO BAD. SHE COULD FIX YOU A MEAL FROM THAT BEAST. COR-MAC-DEN AND HIS FOLK ARE COOKING IT IN THE GROUND.
TRUE. YOU CAN SMELL IT ALL THE WAY TO THE MOUNTAINS.
SAY, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THAT MONSTER AMBUSED A PARTY OF TRAVELERS.
I HAVE SOME MEDICINES --

THE MONSTER? I HEARD ABOUT THAT. BUT SOMEONE TOLD ME A WAR PARTY KILLED IT.
I HEARD THAT TOO.
BUT THIS ONE HAD STRIPES. ITS PROBABLY THE MATE OF THE ONE THAT WAS KILLED.
WHICH DIRECTION DID IT GO IN?
"IT WAS HEADED FOR THE HIGHLANDS. I HOPE THE TRIBES THERE ARE ON GUARD."
SNIFF
SNIFF

Katmandu

THE HUNT

PART THREE

FROM THE JOURNAL OF INDIGO WEECHAI:

"THE GOMARRIN, A FEMALE BY THE WAY, WAS BEING BAKED IN MOUSEKIN FASHION. THE HIGH WINDS THAT CARRIED THE AROMA ALONG WITH THE BLOOD TRAIL WE LEFT, OBVIOUSLY LED HER MATE TO US. KASIL, A HIGHLAND WARRIOR, WAS STANDING WATCH WITH HIS WIFE KEBEC. I LEARNED LATER HE AND HIS WIFE HAD AN AVERSION TO HOPLITES. HIS SISTER WAS KILLED BY RENEGADES FROM OUR PEOPLE. I REGRET HIS INTRODUCTION TO OUR RACE WAS SO... PAINFUL."

"KASIL SAW THE CREATURE. HE LIT A SIGNAL ARROW AND FIRED IT IN THE AIR OVER THE CAMP. KASIL THEN SENT HIS WIFE RUNNING TOWARD CAMP WHILE HE PREPARED TO MAKE A STAND."

ART: DAN PHILLIPS
INKS: ED GARCIA

"RAKON AND I WERE IN THE TENT OF WISSA AND TASLIN WHEN A YOUNG GIRL -- PANKA, I BELIEVE, RAN AND TOLD US OF THE BEAST."
"AS WE RAN OUTSIDE ALL THE WARRIORS IN CAMP WERE THUNDERING TOWARD THE PASS."

"I SAW WE WERE AT BOTH AN ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE. THERE WERE MANY MORE OF US. BUT THIS BEAST WAS A MATURE ADULT MALE. HE WAS QUICKER, DEADLIER, AND HIS HIDE WAS THICKER.
ARROWS DID NOT PENETRATE AS FAR. RAKON COULD NOT GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HOBBLE IT. EVEN MY BULLETS WERE NOT AS EFFECTIVE. WE WERE ONLY ANNOYING IT."
"THE BEAST WAS CLOSE TO A BLUFF. IF WE COULD FORCE IT OVER, THE FALL WOULD CRIPPLE OR KILL IT. BEHIND US WAS THE MOUNTAIN PASS INTO THE VILLAGE.
IF WE FAILED, ALL THE TRIBES WOMEN AND CHILDREN, THE OLD AND INFORM, WOULD DIE. THE CREATURE, SMELLING THE COOKING FEAST, WAS FORCING US BACK."

"SUDDENLY, LIKSA RAN FROM THE VILLE. SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KRESS-KA, THE VELITE FEMALE I'D BEEN MAKING THE ACQUAINTANCE OF."
"SHE RAN BEHIND THE BEAST, BETWEEN IT AND THE BLUFF. HER BROTHER MARKREE WENT TO HER, TYING A ROPE AROUND HER WAIST AND THE OTHER END TO A ROCK."
"LISKA RAN THE HEAD OF HER SPEAR INTO A SACK KRESS HAD, THEN SHE IMPALED THE BEAST IN ITS FLANK."
"HER SPEAR HAD A MORE IMMEDIATE EFFECT THAN ALL OUR ASSAULTS."

"THE MONSTER TURNED AND SAW LISKA WITH A SPEAR. IT TURNED AND HEADED FOR HER. SHE RAN TOWARD THE BLUFF AND THEN OFF IT."
"THE CREATURE FOLLOWED."
DANN

"I RAN TO KRESS-KA. THE SACK SHE CARRIED HELD ANIMAL FAT AND SALT. NO WONDER THE BEAST REACTED."
"EVERYONE CHEERED FOR LISKA THEN POWNETKEE CALLED FOR QUIET."
WHILE WE BATTLED TO KEEP THE BEAST FROM OUR FAMILIES. LISKA DEVISED A WAY TO DESTROY ITS THREAT FOREVER.
THAT IS THE MARK OF A CLAN LEADER. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD THE CLAN OF COLIN WIS-ET-SON SHALL BE CLAN MIT-SEL-EMAN, WITH LISKA AS CLAN LEADER.

"LISKA AND KRESS RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE. FOR SOME REASON SHE SEEMED UPSET AT KRESS. I HADTAKEN SOME INTEREST IN KRESS,AND WANTED TO SEE IF SHE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO RETURN WITH ME TO MY HOME, AS MY WIFE."
"I WAS IN THE GORGE EXAMINING THE GOMARRIN WHEN LISKA'S BROTHER CAME. LISKA WANTED TO SEE ME IN HER TENT."
"I WAS SURPRISED. LISKA WAS IN CERIMONIAL LEATHERS, ATTENDED BY HER WIFE AND KRESS."
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ANYWAY. I UNDERSTAND SINCE YOU SLEW THE CREATURE, YOU OWN IT. I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE HIDE AND SKULL BACK WITH ME. I'M PAYING SOME TRIBESMEN TO HELP ME. WHAT SHALL I GIVE YOU?
I HAVE A PRICE IN MIND. AS CLAN LEADER, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CLANSMEN AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

I HAVE A DAUGHTER, KRESS-KA. SHE IS SKILLED IN LEATHERWORK, MASSAGE AND WIFELY DUTIES.
SHE IS VERY INTELLIGENT.
I WOULD SEE HER TRAVEL TO YOUR LAND OF MARVELS. TO LEARN AND EXPAND HER HORIZONS, WITH SOMEONE WHO WOULD WATCH OVER HER LIKE A HUSBAND.
CLAN LEADER LISKA, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO THIS SERVICE FOR YOU. THAT IS, IF KRESS IS WILLING.
I AM, CLAN LEADER.
VERY WELL. THE SENESCHAL CAN PERFORM A MARRIAGE CEREMONY IF YOU DESIRE.
THAT WOULD PLEASE ME.
SHAYGIN, WOULD YOU TAKE THEM TO THE SENESCHAL? I'D LIKE SOME QUIET TIME TO REST.
OF COURSE, MY HUSBAND.

"BUT MAMA! WHY DID LISKA LET KRESS GO? DIDN'T SHE LOVE HER?"
"LOANZAH, THE FAMILY HISTORIES DON'T TELL THAT. BUT THEY DO SAY...."
"WHEN KRESS-KA CAME TO LIVE WITH LISKA, SHE GAVE HER A LOCK OF HER HAIR."
"LISKA KEPT THE LOCK OF KRESS-KA'S HAIR THE REST OF HER LIFE."
dp

THERE KITTENS.
I'VE TOLD YOU A STORY OF LISKA WHERE SHE MET A HOPLITE, AND SAW KRESS-KA AND RAKON. NOW IT'S YOUR BEDTIME BECAUSE DADDY HAS BEEN WAITING LONG ENOUGH FOR ME.
ABOUT TIME, LEAHTRAH. I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK I WOULD SPEND OUR ANNIVERSARY ALONE-
LEAHTRAH?

LEATRAH CANNOT BE HERE TONIGHT, FAVORED MASTER.
BUT SHE HAS SENT MADAME LIANA IN HER PLACE, TO DANCE FOR YOU, AS WELL AS HER DAUGHTER LOANNA.
AND WHEN WE'VE DANCED AND LOANNA HAS GONE TO BED- WE'LL HAVE ***OUR*** ANNIVERSARY.

END.

CSM

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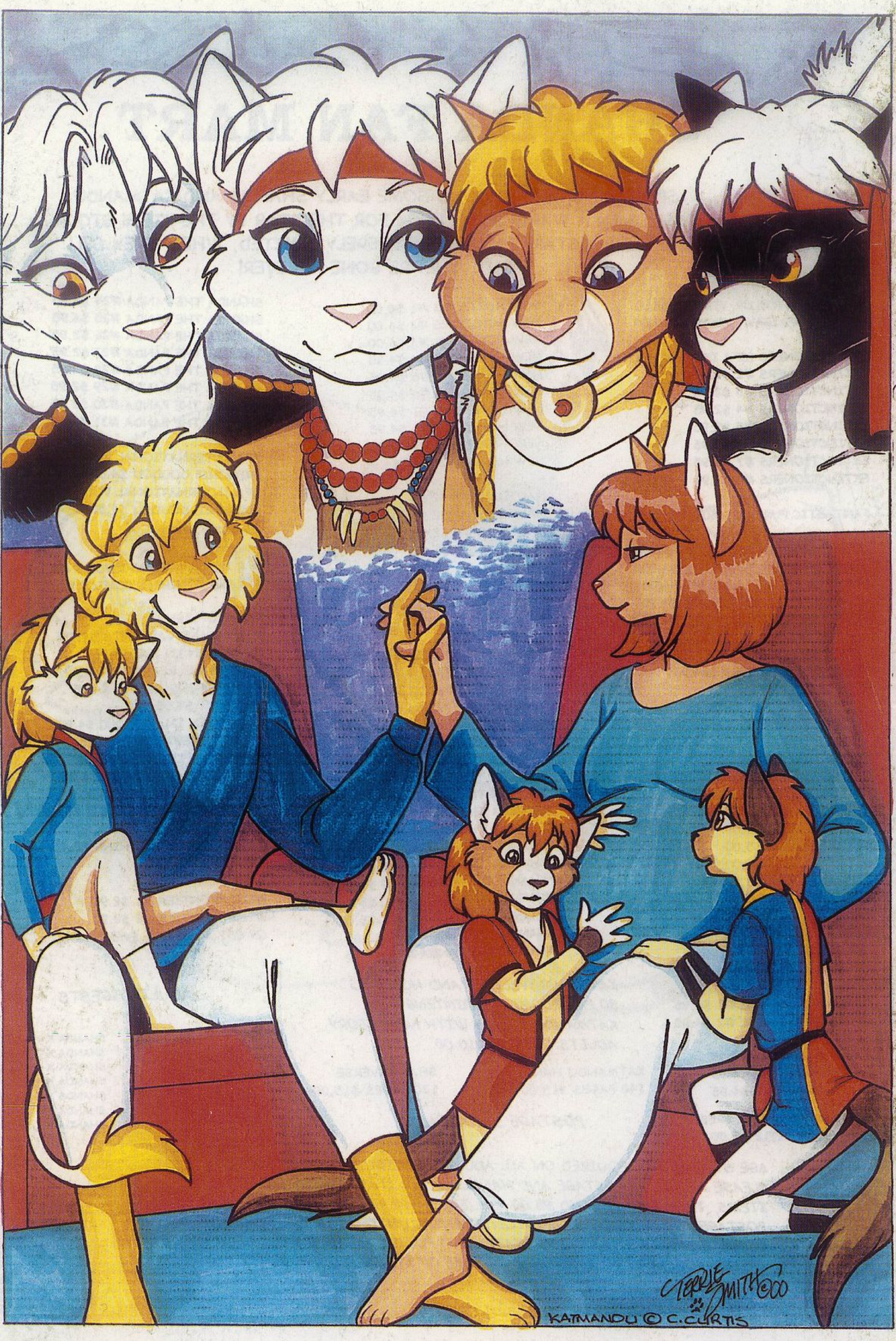
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